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8 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR

SUBJECT: Proposed Air Operation Staged through Gotland

1. During my recent visit to Stockholm [] and I had a discussion with [] on 15 May in the course of which I raised the question of whether the TIERARs would be willing to provide operational support for a CIA air operation designed to exfiltrate agents from Latvia. I sketched very briefly for [] what would be involved in the way of type of aircraft and told him that originally the idea had been to carry out this operation in March of this year but that for mechanical reasons it had not been possible to meet that target date. I explained that it seemed almost essential for the success of the operation to have refueling facilities on Gotland for both the outgoing and returning legs of the mission.

2. [] was very interested in the idea and indicated a completely receptive attitude toward the question of Swedish assistance in such an operation. He promised to look into the question of whether or not it would be practical to use the principal civilian airfield in Gotland near Visby or whether other arrangements would be more suitable. He said that one major problem was that Gotland was the base for important radar establishments and that as a consequence the entire area was more or less in a restricted category. In any case he promised to come back to the matter at an early date.

3. The next day [] assistant, [] discussed this matter with me and seemed to favor the idea of an aircraft under German civilian cover coming to the Visby airfield in a purely overt manner with appropriate documentation and flight plan to make it appear that the plane was on a routine business trip. I pointed out to [] that this suggestion seemed to me to have a number of disadvantages, the principal one of which was the fact that it would be difficult to alter the flight plan for any such flight without its immediately coming to the attention of airport authorities in Gotland and in the ostensible German

destination.

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destination. I said it was my own idea that there must be some unoccupied Swedish Air Force reserve landing strip to which a few drums of gasoline and a portable pump could be trucked without attracting any attention and that such a field could be used in a completely covert manner. The only other arrangements which would be necessary would be insuring that the Swedish radar defenses were properly warned in order that an alert not be set off by the movements of the plane.

4. [] seemed to find this proposal worthy of consideration and said that it might work out in the final analysis that the Swedish Air Force would be the authority with which to arrange the entire matter. I said that we had anticipated that this might indeed be the case but that we had of course wished to raise the subject initially with the TIEBARs in order to receive their recommendations as to how to approach the problem. [] promised to consider the matter further and to report the results of his findings to the [] I had indicated to the TIEBARs that the timing for this flight would probably be toward the end of August.

5. On 8 June a cable was sent to [] from Headquarters asking for information regarding developments subsequent to those reported above.

[]
Chief, WE-1

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